

Application No. 09/807,403
Amendment dated July 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 7, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on February 7, 2006, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1-15 remain pending and unamended in this application.

Reply to §102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-4 and 8-15 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Hunt et al. (GB 2,307,180A).

More particularly, the rejection of claims 1, 8 and 9 asserts that Hunt et al teaches a portable suction apparatus together with other elements. Each of claims 1, 8 and 9, however, recites the inclusion of a tube connecting a canister to a wall suction point or to a vacuum bottle – neither of which are anticipated by the teaching of a portable suction apparatus such as that disclosed in Hunt et al. Whereas claim 14 recites similar language, and claims 2-4, 10-13 and 15 all depend on claims 1, 8, 9 and 14, such other claims likewise require the inclusion of a tube connecting a canister to a wall suction point or to a vacuum bottle. A portable suction apparatus such as that disclosed in Hunt et al does not anticipate the recited wall suction / vacuum bottle element.

Hence, whereas Hunt et al is asserted as disclosing a portable suction source that does not anticipate a wall suction point or a vacuum bottle, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections under 35 USC §102(b).

Reply to §103 Rejection of the Claim 2

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2,307,180A to Hunt et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,944,703 to Dixon et al, and claims 5-7 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2,307,180A to Hunt et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,051,431 to Wurster.

In reply, as with claims 1, 8, 9 and 14, each of claims 2 and 5-7 directly or indirectly recites the inclusion of a tube connecting a canister to a wall suction point or to a vacuum bottle – neither of which are suggested by Hunt et al, Dixon

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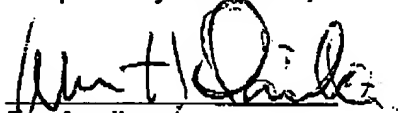
et al, or Wurster. Accordingly, there is no prima facie case of obviousness with regard to these claims.

Conclusion

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment made with this Office Action, to Deposit Account Number 500326.

In light of all the foregoing, believing that all things raised in Examiner's February 7, 2006 Office Action have been addressed, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the prior rejections and objections, as well as allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issue. If the Examiner would care to discuss any remaining matters by phone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at 210.255.4545.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicant

William H. Quirk (Reg. No.: 33,996)
Intellectual Property Counsel
KCI Licensing, Inc.
8023 Vantage Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78230
Telephone: 210.255.4545
Facsimile: 210.255.6969
E-mail: william.quirk@kci1.com

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